

TRW



03560.002598

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
Yuji KONNO, et al.	)	Examiner: James A. Thompson
Application No.: 09/586,884	)	Group Art Unit: 2624
Filed: June 5, 2000	)	
For: IMAGE RECORDING APPARATUS,	)	October 7, 2005
IMAGE RECORDING METHOD,	)	
METHOD FOR CONTROLLING	)	
THE IMAGE RECORDING	)	
APPARATUS, STORAGE MEDIUM	)	
STORING A PROGRAM CAPABLE	)	
OF BEING RED BY A COMPUTER,	)	
AND IMAGE PROCESSING	)	
METHOD	)	

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicants' Statement of the Substance of Interview

Sir:

A personal interview was held on August 25, 2005 between the Examiner, James A. Thompson, and Applicants' Attorney, Jack S. Cubert (Reg. 24,245) regarding the above-identified application. The following summaries the substance of the discussion:

1. Applicants' Attorney explained the features of the invention of (a) a dot pattern table having plural different dot patterns associated with gradation value and pixel

position having a plurality of different dot patterns, each having the same dot number and a different dot arrangement corresponding to the same gradation value, (b) the different dot patterns corresponding to the same gradation value being associated with plural pixel positions corresponding to a plural of pixels arranged in a nozzle arrangement direction, (c) the dot pattern tables being set only for X ( $N > X$ ) gradation-values among N gradation-values and not set for  $N - X$  gradation-values wherein for X ( $N > X$ ) gradation-values, the dot pattern assigned to target pixel is selected from the dot pattern table but for  $N - X$  gradation-values, the dot pattern assigned to target pixel is generated by a dot pattern generating unit, and (d) the size of the dot pattern table corresponding to a specific color among the stored dot pattern tables for plural colors being smaller than the sizes of dot pattern tables for other colors.

2. With respect to feature (a), the Examiner suggested that the recitation of Claim 1 of "a selection step for selecting one dot-pattern based on gradation-value information of the pixel of the image data and position information of the pixel, from a dot-pattern table having a plurality of different dot patterns associated with gradation value and pixel position" and the corresponding language in Claims 17, 35, 78, 84 and 90-92 may overcome the Curry reference.

3. The Examiner objected to the recitation of Claim 34 of a code of a "selection step for selecting one dot-pattern based on gradation-value information and position information indicated by each pixel of the image data input in said input step, from a dot-pattern table having a plurality of different dot patterns associated with gradation value and pixel position" and the

corresponding language in Claims 48, 52, 56, 60, 64 and 68 as taught by Curry. In particular, the Examiner objected to the phrase "indicated by".

4. In regard to feature (b), the Examiner presented the opinion that this feature is a natural result of the plural dot patterns of feature (a) and would not make the claims allowable by itself.

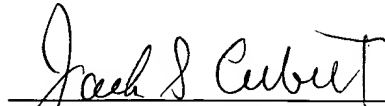
5. As to feature (c), the Examiner suggested that he would further consider his position which relies on the disclosure of permutations in Curry.

6. With respect to feature (d), the Examiner indicated he believes that Broddin et al. discloses that a mirror means which could be used in representing a color so that the resulting table based on the mirror image is smaller.

7. In regard to the feature of a two dimensional dot pattern table, the Examiner suggested that this feature is shown in Curry's disclosure of a 5 bit by 5 bit address of the halftone tables.

Applicants' attorney, Scott D. Malpede, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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